

25X1A2g

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Portugal

SUBJECT Second Cominform Representative in Portugal

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. A French representative of the Cominform arrived in Portugal on 22 January 1949. He uses the name Pierre du Conte LAVOISIER and is about 30 years old.
2. The strike committee of the Portuguese Communist Party, which is composed of Jose de Sousa COELHO, Dr. Victor Hugo Velez GRILLO and Dr. Alvaro CUNHAL, had received a letter from the Cominform saying that it was sending another representative to Lisbon for conference with Party leaders. Jose de Sousa COELHO received a personal letter which said the Cominform was studying the differences among the various Communist groups in Portugal and that soon an official decision on the matter would be issued. COELHO was asked to give his full support to the representative who was coming to confer with these groups.
3. At first LAVOISIER stayed at the home of Ariosto MESQUITA, a member of the sub-committee named in connection with the strike committee. Later, however, he was moved for reasons of security to the home of Dr. Ernesto de Castro e SILVA, a physician.
4. The representative met Jose de Sousa COELHO and Victor Hugo Velez GRILLO and several days later the strike committee as a whole was called to meet him.
5. [REDACTED] rumors are current in Communist circles that COELHO plans a trip to France to meet Cominform leaders.

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